

Minutes from Steering Committee Call

October 18, 1999

Participants by Region

Region 1	Pam Annarummo
Region 2	Maria Rivera
Region 3	
Region 4	Randy Wolfe
Region 5	Mark Shanahan and Pam Christenson
Region 6	
Region 7	Janet Neff
Region 8	Doug Ryder
Region 9	Marcia Manley and Bruce Oulrey
Region 10	Jill Inahara
EPA	Karen Brown

1. Marcia gave an update on the **Westar Conference**. Although attendance was small, there was good representation from SBAPs and SBOs from the region and across the country. The technical presentations were excellent and the lower numbers actually allowed for greater interaction between panel presenter and audience. There was disappointment that the conference had not more successfully recruited enforcement staff and permit writers. Part of the problem seems to have been assumptions made about who should attend based on SBO/SBAP sponsorship. Jill and Bruce agreed with the assessment that technical presentation were high quality.

2. **2000 Conference**. Pam reminded all that the final survey for session topics has gone out and the deadline for response is this Friday, October 22, 1999! Please encourage folks to fill out this survey!!!! This is really the only tool for each and every program operator to have input on the agenda of the conference. The conference agenda will only be as good as we make it! Again - Please encourage all your states to participate. The results of the survey will form the basis of discussion when the Planning Committee meets in Montana on November 5-6.

Marcia mentioned she is working with a consultant who has expressed interest in conducting a half day workshop at the Annual Meeting on marketing and communications. Marcia has been impressed with this consultant's quality and encourages folks to use the survey to indicate interest in such a presentation.

3. **California Shuffle**. Departmental reorganization has put together a new Ombudsman team in California. Kathleen Tschogl is now the SBO. she will be working with Jim Fisher and Bruce Ohlre. Kathleen will serve as the Region IX Steering Committee representative to California, replacing Kathleen Mead. Many thanks to Kathleen Mead for her years of service and input to the national steering committee and the SBAP/SBO programs.

4. **Karen Brown's Update.** Karen reminded all that the notice on cooperative agreement choices (\$1,000,000 Grant) had been sent out and that her office is looking forward to working with the ten states selected. The group will shortly schedule a conference call and there are tentative plans for a D.C. Get together in early 2000.

Karen had the opportunity to attend the Region IV SBO/SBAP conference and found it to be an excellent one, with all states in that region participating.

The Ombudsman Office is working on the Annual Report to Congress as well as getting the Peer Match program up and running, using Kansas, Iowa and North Carolina as host states. In addition, it is exploring next steps concerning a National CAP, and is updating the Lab Guide and the Source Guide.

Progress on all of the above is being slowed by the lack of an EPA budget.

5. **Subcommittees.** The Promotions Subcommittee has about 10 volunteers now and will be setting up its organizational conference call shortly. A "team leader" is being sought for the promotions group. The Guidelines Subcommittee is working on another draft of the steering committee guidelines and hopes to review it sometime this week or next; a final draft should be ready for all states by year's end.

6. **Next meeting.** The next call will be Monday, November 15 at 1:00 p.m. Central Time. All agenda items should be forwarded to Pam.

(Call participants claimed a new high efficiency record for conducting business on this conference call. Those less generous might claim it was just short.)